

## Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /077 W

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R 282257Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9197

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3810

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, SOCI

SUBJ: VISIT OF ICRC REP SERGE NESSI

1. SUMMARY. NESSI CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JUNE 28 AFTER TALKS WITH SENIOR GOC OFFICIALS. NESSI THANKED USG FOR FINANCIAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD, OUTLINED CONTINUING ICRC EFFORTS TO OBTAIN BROADEST POSSIBLE AUTHORIZATION FROM GOC TO VISIT VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF DETENTION CENTERS, REITERATED ICRC OPPOSITION TO DEATH PENALTIES, CITED ICRC OFFER TO GOC TO HELP RESETTLE ANY DETAINEES GOC SHOULD CHOOSE TO EXPEL, AND REPORTED ON MAJOR OVERHAUL OF ICRC SANTIAGO OPERATIONS. NESSI USED FIGURE OF 4,000 TO 5,000 PERSONS AS ICRC WORKING ESTIMATE OF PRESENT NUMBER OF DETAINEES. END SUMMARY.

2. VISITING PERMITS - NESSI TRACED HISTORY OF ICRC OPERATIONS IN CHILE SINCE SEPTEMBER 1973 COUP, STRESSING INCREASING RESTRICTIONS BY GOC ON FREEDOM OF ICRC REPS. TO VISIT VARIOUS TYPES OF DETENTION CENTERS. GOC ONLY RECENTLY RENEWED PERMITS WHICH HAD EXPIRED IN LATE APRIL (SANTIAGO 3548), A HIATUS WHICH HE LINKED TO CANCELLATION OF ALL VISITS TO DAWSON ISLAND AT THAT TIME. THESE NEW PERMITS ARE ONLY TO VISIT SOME TEN "SPECIAL" DETENTION CENTERS SUCH AS PISAGUA AND CHACABUCO, HOWEVER, ICRC IS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION FROM MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO VISIT

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REGULAR JAILS AND PENITENTIARIES, AND BELIEVES THIS WILL BE

GRANTED. ICRC ALSO SEEKING PERMISSION TO VISIT CIVILIANS DETAINED IN MILITARY BASES AND HAS BEEN TOLD BY CENTRAL GOVT OFFICIALS THAT LOCAL GOVERNOR (INTENDENTE) IS ONLY ONE WHO HAS AUTHORITY TO GRANT SUCH REQUESTS. NESSI NOTED THAT IN DAYS FOLLOWING COUP GOC GRANTED BROAD AUTHORIZATION TO ICRC TO VISIT ALL THREE TYPES OF INSTALLATIONS, SO "WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR IS NOT NEW." NESSI STATED THAT ICRC DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO INTERROGATIONS CENTERS AND CITED REPEATED BUT FUTILE ATTEMPTS BY ICRC REPS TO VISIT TEJAS VERDES WHICH HE CONFIRMED IS NOW CLOSED. HE ALSO CITED RECENT EXPERIENCE ON FIRST ICRC VISIT TO AIR FORCE WAR ACADEMY WHERE ICRC REP WAS ALLOWED ONLY TO WALK THROUGH INSTALLATION BUT NOT ALLOWED TO TALK WITH PRISONERS NOR TO FIND OUT THEIR NAMES, A SITUATION NESSI TERMED "UNACCEPTABLE."

3. TRIALS - NESSI STATED THAT DURING A TALK WITH FON MIN HUERTA JUNE 27, HE VOLUNTEERED ICRC GOOD OFFICES IF GOC SHOULD DECIDE TO EXPEL ANY OR ALL OF THOSE AT PRESENT BEING HELD.

4. NUMBER OF DETAINEES - NESSI CITED FIGURE OF BETWEEN 4,000 AND 5,000 PERSONS AS CURRENT ICRC ESTIMATE OF PERSONS UNDER DETENTION, ALTHOUGH HE STATED THAT ICRC HAS NO WAY TO CONFIRM IT SINCE "WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO VISIT ALL PLACES OF DETENTION." HE NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT THAT PINOCHET HAD USED FIGURE OF 3,000 DETAINED IN CONVERSATION WITH HIM WHILE "CHURCH" (PRESUMABLY COMMITTEE FOR PEACE) IS USING FIGURE OF 10,000.

5. DEATH PENALTIES - NESSI ASKED IF AMB COULD CONFIRM A JUNE 17 NEWSWEEK PERISCOPE ITEM ALLEGING USG HAS RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM GOC THAT NO DEATH SENTENCES WILL BE EXECUTED. AMB STATED HIS PERSONAL IMPRESSION IS NO EXECUTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE, BUT THAT HE COULD NOT CITE ANY GUARANTEE TO THIS EFFECT FROM GOC.

6. REORGANIZATION OF ICRC OPERATIONS IN CHILE - NESSI NOTED THAT FOUR ICRC REPS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED. ALTHOUGH THEY HAD ENGAGED IN NO IMPROPER ACTIVITIES, NESSI SAID SOME OF THEIR ACTIONS HAD BEEN "MISUNDERSTOOD" BY GOC OFFICIALS. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, NESSI TOLD EMBOFF THAT ENTIRE ICRC OPERATION IN SANTIAGO IS UNDERGOING TOP-TO-BOTTOM REORGANIZATION. RESIDENT REP ERIC THOMANN IS BEING REPLACED OFFICIALLY IN AUGUST BY ONE SUNCHI (PHONETIC) WHO IS ALREADY ON BOARD HERE. APPARENTLY  
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MOST OF TEN OTHER STAFF MEMBERS ARE IN PROCESS OF BEING REPLACED. NESSI DEPARTS SANTIAGO FOR GENEVA JUNE 29 BUT VOLUNTEERED HE WOULD BE BACK HERE IN AUGUST.  
POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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